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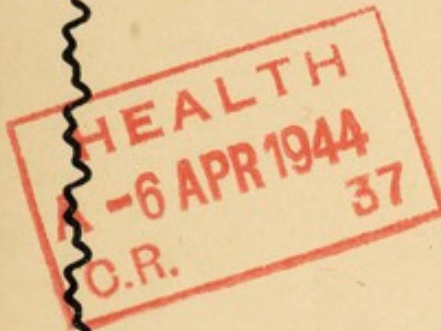
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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

MAYOR ... ALDERMAN A. NAYLOR, J.P.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER

1942

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FEDERAL OFFICE
OF HEALTH



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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1941-2.

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. A. A. KEECH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. BUTTERWORTH.

The Mayor : Alderman A. NAYLOR, J.P.

Alderman A. Pimlott.

Alderman A. E. Williams.

Alderman F. Wilkinson, J.P.

Councillor F. Bolton.

Councillor J. D. Crewdson.

Councillor J. Haddow, J.P.

Councillor W. A. Satchwell.

Councillor C. E. Travis.

Councillor C. W. Thompson.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P., and S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. T. J. TRIPPIER, Cert. R.S.I.,
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

†H. KELLETT, Cert. R.S.I. (on Active Service
with R.A.M.C.)

†J. KAY, Cert. R.S.I. (To 13th June, 1942).

†G. E. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I. (To 31st July, 1942).

†W. A. BARKER, Cert. R.S.I. (From 10th August, 1942).

†Certified Meat and Food Inspectors.

Office Staff :

Miss M. HOLLAND (*Loaned Central Typing Department*).

Miss E. V. WOLSTENHOLME (*Temporary Typist*).

H. DIXON (*Junior Clerk*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MONSALL LODGE,

To The Mayor,
and Members of the Prestwich Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the Year 1942. As requested by the Ministry of Health it is a curtailed report and deals with the more important Health Matters, Public Health Services, Vital Statistics, Infectious Diseases and Sanitary Work.

During the year I continued the Immunisation Scheme and at the end of the year I have immunised 552 children completely. This added to the previous year makes a total of 2,163 children immunised completely. It is remarkable that during the year only 8 cases of Diphtheria were notified four of which had not been immunised. Notwithstanding the continuation of the War the health of the people was well maintained.

The birth rate has increased, the number of births being 401, compared with 364 the previous year.

The number of deaths was higher than in 1941, viz. 386 compared with 343, this was due to the greater number of deaths amongst the older persons, i.e., from 65 upwards.

Heart Disease and Cancer give the highest number of deaths this year, viz., 90 and 63 respectively.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council, Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and other officials for their support and encouragement.

I also desire to record my appreciation to the valuable assistance and good work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Staff of the Health Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. BURBIDGE,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,420.
Population :	
Registrar-General's Estimate, 1942 ...	33,270.
Census, 1931	23,881.
Density (persons per acre)	13.7
Number of inhabited houses end of 1942 according to rate books	9,910.
Rateable value	£234,687.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£917.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—Social conditions are good. The area is mainly residential, the chief industries include Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing Works, and a Soap Factory.

Extent of Unemployment :—Official figures are not available, but the estimated figure is 2% of the insured population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Totals
(Legitimate	200	190	390
Live Births (Illegitimate	6	5	11
(Totals	206	195	401

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.0.

	Males	Females	Totals
(Legitimate	5	3	8
Still Births (Illegitimate	—	—	—
(Totals	5	3	8

Rate of still births per 1,000 total births 19.0

Deaths 181 ... 205 ... 386

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes :— Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births

	Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	nil.	nil.
Other Maternal causes	nil.	nil.
	nil.	nil.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1 000 live births' 34

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births 23

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 454

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 63

„ Measles (all ages) nil.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1942.

	Males	Females	Totals
Influenza	—	1	1
Tuberculosis Respiratory System ...	10	6	16
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	2	3
Cancer	28	35	63
Diabetes	3	—	3
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions... ..	15	23	38
Heart Disease	46	44	90
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	7	12
Bronchitis	14	18	32
Pneumonia	6	9	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3	5
Ulcer, Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases... ..	10	8	18
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	6	8
Syphilitic Diseases	—	3	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1	1	2
Congenital, Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ...	8	3	11
Road Traffic Accidents	4	2	6
Suicide	1	3	4
Other Violence	—	4	4
All other causes	24	26	50
	—	—	—
Totals	181	205	386
	—	—	—

B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1)—Ambulance Facilities :

(a) Infectious cases are removed to the Florence Nightingale Hospital in ambulances provided by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

(b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases :

The Borough's ambulance service was augmented in February, 1942, by the provision of a new Ambulance, making two Ambulances in commission. The service has greatly benefited thereby.

(2)—Nursing in the Home.

General and maternity nursing is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association. The warmest thanks are due to these nurses for their excellent work.

There are four midwives, including the County Council Midwife practising in the area. Their work during the past year has to be commended.

(3)—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare centre is open at Prestwich on Thursdays, and at Heaton Park on Mondays, 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. During the year there were 6,189 attendances, a weekly average of 119.

Dr. Hutchinson and a Nurse of the County Council Authority are in attendance at each session, and there is a voluntary Committee of five ladies—Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Adams, Miss Ballantyne and Mrs. Madeley.

An Anti-Natal Clinic is held at "The Uplands," Whitefield, each Monday from 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

(4).—Hospital Accommodation.

(a)—General : Accommodation is provided by Hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bury.

(b)—Maternity: There is no Maternity Hospital in the district. The Northern and St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, are available for complicated cases. The Redcliffe Nursing Home and No. 4, Buckingham Road, local Registered Nursing Homes are also available.

(c)—Children: The Northern Hospital, Manchester, and the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, are available.

(d)—Infectious Diseases: Cases are treated at the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, which is maintained by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board of which Prestwich is a constituent member. Structural and establishment expenses of the Hospital are met by a precept based on the rateable value of the district of each constituent member. Cost of maintenance of patients is divided on a basis of "patient days."

The estimated cost of treatment for the year ended 30th September, 1942, was £1,435 13s. 1d.

74 Cases were admitted to the hospital during the year.

(e)—Tuberculosis: Cases from this district are provided for by the Lancashire County Council Sanatoria.

5.—Laboratory Facilities:

No change has taken place since my last report and facilities are still available at the Public Health Laboratories of Manchester and Salford.

C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—No important changes have taken place during the year with regard to water supplies, sewerage, drainage, rivers, and streams.

Two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and results were satisfactory.

2.—Closet accommodation at the end of 1942 :

	No. 1942	No. 1941
Middens	18	18
Closets attached to middens	24	24
Pail Closets	139	140
Fresh Water Closets	10482	10481
Waste Water Closets	47	47
Dry Ashpits	nil.	nil.
Moveable Dust Bin	10652	10652
Waste Water Closets converted to		
Fresh Water Closets	nil.	1

3.—Gully Cleaning :

During the year 3,909 premises were visited and 7,258 gullies cleaned by workmen from the Department.

4.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

Number of premises visited	1,197
Number of Inspections	2,321
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	664
Number of defects or nuisances abated	558
Number of Drains Tested Water	4
Number of Drains Tested Smoke	59
Number of Drains Tested Colour	42

5.—Number of Notices served :

(1)—Informal Notices	467
(2)—Statutory Notices	22
(All the Statutory Notices were complied with).	

6.—Bug Infestation :

11 Cases were found. 5 Cases in Council Houses and 6 in privately owned houses. All but 2 of these cases had been abated by the end of the year.

7.—Factories Act, 1937 :

Number of Factories on Registers :

(a) Mechanical Power	54
(b) Without Mechanical Power	12

38 Inspections of factories were made, 12 defects were found and all were remedied.

Outworkers :

3 Lists were received involving 48 visits to premises.
1 List was sent out.

8.—Procedure under the Shops Acts, 1912-36.

120 Visits were paid to shops to ascertain that the requirements of the Acts were being observed. In 22 cases it was found necessary to send warning letters to shopkeepers regarding infringements.

No Court proceedings were taken against shopkeepers during the year.

Two Applications together with statutory declaration forms were received from Jewish Traders for permission to open their businesses until 2 p.m. on Sundays. Both applications were granted.

D—HOUSING.

No new houses were erected in Prestwich during 1942 and none were demolished.

The number of houses owned by the Local Authority under the 1919-1930 Acts shows no change, namely 1,092.

The housing conditions in the district may be regarded as satisfactory. Under present conditions it is difficult to get repairs carried out to the older houses. At the end of the year there were still 2 houses involving 2 families of 13 persons known to be overcrowded. During the year 2 cases of overcrowding were relieved. 1 rehoused by the Council, the other by marriage.

During the year 8 dwelling houses were measured for ascertaining the "permitted number" and certificates were issued.

E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—Milk Supply.

There are 120 persons registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. This figure comprises 6 cowkeepers, 57 dairy-men or retail roundsmen, and 57 persons registered for the sale of bottled milk only.

The cleanliness of premises and methods of distribution has been generally satisfactory considering the restrictions of war conditions. Inspection of farms, dairies and milk shops is carried out periodically.

Examination of samples :—9 samples were taken for bacteriological examination of which 3 were unsatisfactory. The farmers concerned were written to and improvement in cleanliness was noted. 10 Samples were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, all the results were negative.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1940.

The following licences were issued :—

“Tubercular Tested Milk.”

(i) Bottling	nil.
(ii) Distribution	2

“Accredited Milk.”

(i) Bottling	nil.
(ii) Distribution	3

“Pasteurised” Milk.”

(i) Pasteurising Plants	1
(ii) Distribution	1

2.—Meat and other Foods.

There are two licensed private slaughter houses in the district, also one in connection with the County Mental Hospital. Slaughtering at the two private slaughter houses was stopped under the Live Stock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

6 Slaughtermen's licences were issued.

The retail meat shops have been regularly visited to inspect the meat and see that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations were being observed. Generally conditions have been satisfactory and no statutory action has been necessary.

There are 18 bakehouses on the register. Periodical inspection has been carried out and on occasions it has been necessary to draw attention to overdue limewashing and cleanliness.

Other food premises have been inspected regularly and strict attention has been paid to cleanliness.

3.—Unfit Foodstuffs.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to the Department and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

739 Tins—Tinned Foodstuffs.

143 lbs.—Onions.

160 No.—Eggs.

9½ lbs.—Butter.

11 Stones—Fish.

24 lbs.—Sultanas.

4.—Adulteration, etc., Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Lancashire County Council administer the above and I am indebted to Mr. J. C. Almond, County Sanitary Inspector for the following particulars of samples taken within this district.

12 samples of milk were taken, one of which was found to be deficient of 10% solids not fat. Court proceedings were instituted and the vendor convicted and fined with costs.

F—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. During the first six months of the year an epidemic of measles broke out, it was of a mild type compared with previous years and complications were very few. Children in the 5 to 10 years group were most affected and numbered 195 cases. Altogether 403 cases were notified during the year, an increase of 202 over 1941.

Diphtheria showed a remarkable drop from the previous year, only 8 cases being notified against 23 in 1941. Whether this is due to immunisation is not yet certain but the fall in the number of cases points in that direction, particularly as 4 of the reported cases were in the over fifteen age groups.

Scarlet Fever cases notified showed an increase, 76 cases against 28 in 1941. The type was very mild and in fact great difficulty was found in notifying many cases owing to various rashes which in my opinion were due to food and which resembled the true Scarlet Fever rash.

Cerebro-Spinal cases numbered 8 against 3 in 1941. There were no deaths.

No cases of Small-pox, Ophthalmia, Neonatorum or Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1942.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases of all ages	Total Cases Notified Years										65 and over	Total Deaths	Hospital from the district	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Scarlet Fever	76	—	1	2	3	9	44	11	—	3	3	—	—	52	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	8	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	6	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal) ...	37	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	6	7	11	9	15	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	3	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	8	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	8	—	—
Measles	403	12	22	29	49	79	195	12	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	1	1	2	3	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	5	3	—	—	—
Erysipelas	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	2	8	4	—	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	596	14	25	35	56	94	249	24	5	27	26	21	20	15	74	—

NOTE:—The following cases are included in the above Table:—

- (a) In County Mental Hospital:—Pneumonia 20, Erysipelas 10, Dysentery all cases.
- (b) Non-Civilians:—Pneumonia 3, Scarlet Fever 3, Diphtheria 1, Cerebro Spinal Fever 1.

2.—Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 312 pre-school children and 240 school children were immunised.

Sessions are held at the Public Health Department as often as required. I have been greatly assisted in the work by the valuable help of Nurse Wellard, kindly lent by the Lancashire County Council.

The method I have carried out from the beginning was to separate the children into two classes, viz., namely:—

(1)—Those that had no Whooping Cough or Diphtheria since birth.

(2)—Those that had no Diphtheria but had had Whooping Cough.

In the first class I immunised against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria by giving one injection of a combined serum each month for 3 months, that is one injection per month.

In the second class one injection of Diphtheria Serum each month for 3 months that is one injection per month.

Since January, 1941, when the scheme was commenced I have immunised to the end of December, 1942, 2,168 children, of which 1,179 were school age, and am glad to report there were no serious after effects from the injections.

3.—Diphtheria Antitoxin.

190,000 Units were issued to Medical Practitioners free of charge for the treatment of local residents.

4.—Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Number of specimens examined in 1942 by the Public

Health Laboratories of Manchester and Salford were as follows :—

Diphtheria—Throat or Nose Swabs	99
Virulence Tests	2
Tuberculosis—Sputum	11
Other—Widal Tests, etc.	—

5.—Action taken with regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return Cases, (c) Carrier Cases.

(a) Contacts excluded from school and in a few cases from work :—

No. of contacts traced :—

Scarlet Fever	55 School	195 others.
Diphtheria	7 School	19 others.

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

6.—Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.
No vaccinations were performed by me during the year.

7.—Disinfection.

Infected premises are fumigated with formaldehyde vapour, and the walls sprayed with formalin when necessary.

Bedding and clothing is removed and disinfected in the steam disinfector provided by the Council.

Number of disinfections carried out :—

Rooms	167
Articles, Bedding and Clothing	1505
Public Library Books	172
Articles, Bedding and Clothing destroyed ...	57

Disinfection is carried out by workmen attached to the

Health Department.

During holiday periods during the year the schools in the district are disinfected with formaldehyde vapour and the drain gullies and grids cleansed and disinfected with Chloride of Lime.

8.—Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
20—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	2	—	—	2	2	—	1
35—45	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	1	3	—	2	2	1	—	—
65 and over..	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
	15	9	1	2	10	6	1	2
	24		3		16		3	
Totals	27				19			

I am pleased to report a reduction of 4 in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified over the previous year, the figures being 27 in 1942 and 31 in 1941.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 16 against 18 in 1941, and from other tubercular affections 3 against 2 in 1941.

The rates are as follows :—

	Per 10,000 of Population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.48
Other Tuberculos Disease	0.09

The notification of tuberculosis in the district is efficient and no action has been necessary in respect of non-notification.

No action has been necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

9.—Scabies.

During the year 32 cases were reported to the Health Department. Compulsory notification is not in force in this area, and the notifications received, with one or two exceptions, were from the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester in respect of persons attending the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases.

On receipt of a notification the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector further details obtained and arrangements made for steam disinfection of bedding and clothing at the termination of infection.

No facilities exist in the area for the treatment of scabies, but all persons affected are either directed to hospital or advised on treatment necessary and methods to adopt by their own medical advisers. This has proved very satisfactory in the elimination of the trouble. The treatment by application of Benzyl Benzoate and bathing the body is proving very efficacious.

